

### **AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently amended) A method for service provisioning a customer with at least one software application from a service provider, comprising steps of:  
  
establishing a set of attributes of a service provision;  
  
displaying the set of attributes using a graphical user interface,  
  
~~selecting~~ receiving selections from said set of attributes entered using the graphical  
  
user interface, the selections [[for]] defining a Service Level Agreement  
  
(SLA) with the service provider, wherein the SLA comprises a plurality of  
  
constraints; and  
  
provisioning a service for at least one client computer of the customer in accordance  
  
with constraints imposed by the SLA.
2. (Original) A method as in claim 1, and further comprising a step of re-provisioning the customer in response to a change in the SLA.
3. (Original) A method as in claim 1, and further comprising a step of re-

provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, in response to at least one customer service-related criterion.

4. (Original) A method as in claim 1, and further comprising a step of re-provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, in response to at least one service provider criterion.

5. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of provisioning the customer includes a step of allocating service provider data processing resources to a data processing task of the customer.

6. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of provisioning the customer includes a step of allocating customer data processing resources to a data processing task of the customer.

7. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of provisioning the customer includes a step of allocating data processing resources of another service provider to a data processing task of the customer.

8. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of provisioning the customer includes a step of allocating all required data processing resources from at least one

other service provider to a data processing task of the customer.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of provisioning the customer includes a step of allocating all required data processing resources from at least one other service provider, and from the customer, to a data processing task of the customer.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 1, and further comprising a step of re-provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, by allocating at least some required data processing resources from at least one other service provider to a data processing task of the customer.

11. (Original) A method as in claim 1, and further comprising a step of re-provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, by allocating at least some required data processing resources from the service provider to a data processing task of the customer.

12. (Original) A method as in claim 1, and further comprising a step of re-provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, by allocating at least some required data processing resources from the customer to a data processing task of the customer.

13. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said attributes comprise a cost attribute.

14. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said attributes comprise an interactivity attribute.

15. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said attributes comprise an availability attribute.

16. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said SLA is comprised of at least one of a cost attribute, an interactivity attribute, and an availability attribute.

17. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the service provider is a virtual service provider, and wherein the step of provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, includes a step of allocating at least some required data processing resources from at least one other service provider to a data processing task of the customer.

18. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the service provider is a value-added services provider, and wherein the step of provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, includes a step of allocating at least some required data processing resources from at least one other service provider to a data processing task of the

customer.

19. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the service provider is a value-added services provider, and wherein the step of provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, includes a step of allocating at least some required data processing resources from data processing resources of the value-added services provider, and from at least one other service provider, to a data processing task of the customer.

20. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the service provider is a value-added services provider, and wherein the step of provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, includes a step of allocating at least some required data processing resources from data processing resources of the value-added services provider, from at least one other service provider, and from the customer, to a data processing task of the customer, and further comprising a step of re-provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, by changing the allocation of at least some of the allocated data processing resources.

21. (Original) A method as in claim 1, and further comprising a step of re-provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, in response to a change in data processing resource utilization.

22. (Original) A method as in claim 1, and further comprising a step of re-provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, in response to a change in predicted or actual data processing resource availability.

23. (Original) A method as in claim 1, and further comprising a step of re-provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, in response to a failure of a data processing resource.

24. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the service provider is a virtual service provider, and wherein the step of provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, includes a step of allocating at least some required data processing resources from at least one data processing site that offers data processing capacity for use in satisfying data processing requirements of the customer.

25. (Currently amended) A method for service provisioning a customer with at least one software application from a service provider, comprising steps of:

establishing a set of attributes of a service provision;

displaying the set of attributes using a graphical user interface;

selecting receiving selections from said set of attributes entered using the graphical user interface, the selections [[for]] defining a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the service provider, wherein the SLA comprises a plurality of

constraints;

provisioning a service for the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA,  
by allocating at least some required data processing resources to at least one  
data processing site that offers data processing capacity for use; and  
transparently re-provisioning the service for the customer, within the constraints  
imposed by the SLA, by re-allocating at least some required data processing  
resources from the at least one data processing site that offers data processing  
capacity for use to one of the customer, the service provider, or another  
service provider.

26. (Currently amended) A method for service provisioning a customer with at  
least one software application from a service provider, comprising steps of:

establishing a set of attributes of a service provision;

displaying the set of attributes using a graphical user interface;

selecting receiving selections from said set of attributes entered using the graphical  
user interface, the selections [[for]] defining a Service Level Agreement  
(SLA) with the service provider, wherein the SLA comprises a plurality of  
constraints;

provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, by allocating  
at least some required data processing resources to at least one other service  
provider that offers data processing capacity for use; and

transparently re-provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, by re-allocating at least some required data processing resources from the at least other service provider that offers data processing capacity for use to one of the customer, the service provider, or a data processing site that offers data processing capacity for use.

27. (Previously Presented) A data processing system for service provisioning a customer with at least one software application from a service provider, said service provider and said customer being coupled together through a communication network, said system comprising:

a system management server for establishing a set of attributes of a service provision;

and

a customer interface for selecting from said set of attributes for defining a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the service provider, said system management server being responsive to said SLA for provisioning at least one client computer of the customer in accordance with constraints imposed by the SLA.

28. (Original) A system as in claim 27, wherein said system management server is responsive to at least one of a customer service-related criterion, a service provider criterion, or a change in a data processing environment, for re-provisioning the customer,



within constraints imposed by said SLA, by allocating service provider data processing resources to a data processing task of the customer, or by allocating customer data processing resources to a data processing task of the customer, or by allocating data processing resources of another service provider to a data processing task of the customer, or by allocating all required data processing resources from at least one other service provider to a data processing task of the customer, or by allocating data processing resources from a remote data processing site to a data processing task of the customer.

29. (Original) A system as in claim 27, wherein said attributes comprise at least one of a cost attribute, an interactivity attribute, and an availability attribute.

30. (Original) A system as in claim 27, wherein the service provider is a virtual service provider, and wherein the customer is provisioned and re-provisioned, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, by allocating at least some required data processing resources from at least one other service provider to a data processing task of the customer.

31. (Original) A system as in claim 27, wherein the service provider is a value-added services provider, and wherein the customer is provisioned and re-provisioned, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, by allocating at least some required data processing resources from at least one other service provider to a data processing task of the customer.

32. (Original) A system as in claim 27, wherein the service provider is a value-added services provider, and wherein the customer is provisioned and re-provisioned, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, by allocating at least some required data processing resources from data processing resources of the value-added services provider, and from at least one other service provider, to a data processing task of the customer.

33. (Original) A system as in claim 27, wherein the service provider is a value-added services provider, and wherein the customer is provisioned and re-provisioned, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, by allocating at least some required data processing resources from data processing resources of the value-added services provider, from at least one other service provider, and from the customer, to a data processing task of the customer, and further re-provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, by changing the allocation of at least some of the allocated data processing resources.

34. (Original) A system as in claim 27, wherein the customer is re-provisioned, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, in response to a change in at least one of data processing resource utilization, a change in predicted or actual data processing resource availability, or a failure of a data processing resource.

35. (Currently amended) A computer program embodied on at least one computer readable medium for service provisioning a customer with at least one software application

from a service provider, said program comprising:

first executable code for establishing a set of attributes of a service provision;  
second executable code, ~~responsive to a user input,~~ for providing the set of attributes to a customer through a graphical user interface and for receiving selections selecting from said set of attributes entered using the graphical user interface, the selections ~~[[for]]~~ defining a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the service provider, wherein the SLA comprises a plurality of constraints;  
third executable code for provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, by allocating at least some required data processing resources to at least one of the service provider, the customer, to another service provider, or to a data processing site that offers data processing capacity for use; and  
fourth executable code for transparently re-provisioning the customer, within the constraints imposed by the SLA, by re-allocating at least some required data processing resources between at least one of the service provider, the customer, the another service provider, or the data processing site that offers data processing capacity for use.

36-40. (Canceled)